

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 SCS-03 SCA-01 SP-02

AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 L-03 H-02 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 OPIC-03 XMB-02 /089 W

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R 131322Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4885

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN ET

SUBJECT: OILFIELD SUPPLY INTERNATIONAL LTD

REF: NAIROBI 4856

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN FREQUENT COMMUNICATION WITH OILFIELD SUPPLY INTERNATIONAL (OSI) GENERAL MANAGER PETER LINDSTROM OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS CONCERNING OSI'S TAX DIFFICULTIES. ACCORDING TO LINDSTROM, WHO HAS ENGAGED ETHIOPIAN LEGAL COUNSEL, THE ONLY COURSE REMAINING FOR OSI IS TO APPEAL ITS TAX ASSESSMENT THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS. IN ORDER TO DO SO A CASH DEPOSIT IS INDEED REQUIRED, BUT THUS FAR OSI, NAIROBI, HAS REFUSED TO PROVIDE REQUIRED SUM OF ETH \$1PPNPP. OSI HAS ASSETS IN COUNTRY WORTH APPROXIMATELY US \$250,000. LINDSTROM BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT LOCAL BANKS WILL NOT ACCEPT THESE ASSETS AS SECURITY AGAINST A LOAN FOR THE REQUIRED DEPOSIT AS OSI HAS NOT YET REGISTERED WITH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM EVEN THOUGH IT HAS BEEN OPERATING IN ETHIOPIA FOR OVER 18 MONTHS. LINDSTROM IS CURRENTLY CHECKING OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING A LOAN.

2. FYI: IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR THAT OSI HAS BEEN A MODEL

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AMERICAN COMPANY WHILE OPERATING IN ETHIOPIA. THE EMBASSY UNDER

NO CIRCUMSTANCES WISHES TO MAKE ANY JUDGMENTS ON THE MERITS, OR LACK THEREOF, OF THE TAX ASSESSMENT, AND UNTIL OSI HAS EXHAUSTED ITS LEGAL RIGHTS THE EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE IT SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN THE CASE. IT IS NOT ACCURATE TO CONTEND THAT THE OSI'S AMERICAN EMPLOYEES CANNOT LEAVE ETHIOPIA. DAVID LIGHT, AN AMERICAN EMPLOYEE OF OSI WITH WHOM THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN DISCUSSING THIS MATTER, HAS NOT YET ATTEMPTED TO EXIT ETHIOPIA AND HE IS FULLY AWARE THAT IF HE HAS ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH THE ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES WHEN HE ATTEMPTS TO DO SO, THE EMBASSY STANDS READY TO MAKE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONS ON HIS BEHALF. NEITHER LINDSTROM NOR LIGHT HAS COMPLAINED TO THE EMBASSY ABOUT HARASSMENT BY ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS. END FYI.

3. WE WILL ADVISE EMBASSY NAIROBI FURTHER REGARDING DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CASE IF DESIRED. OSI HAS TO FILE ITS APPEAL NO LATER THAN JUNE 24 OR IT LOSES ITS APPEAL RIGHTS UNDER ETHIOPIAN LAW. WYMAN

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